

September, 2026

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Spring –

Blooming into a new season



QUEENSLAND SPRING

Our Queensland spring is a beautiful thing.

The Magpies and Kookaburras start to sing louder as their nesting season begins.

The winter chill begins to fade, and the golden wattles start to gleam. Our native plants and shrub come alive.

The grass is bright with morning dew, and the bush awakens, fresh and clear to welcome in spring.

Presidents Message

A SEASON TO LOOK FORWARD TO

As we head into spring, there is plenty happening at Gympie Landcare and much to look forward to over the coming months.

With a **hot, dry spring and summer forecast**, now is a good time to think carefully about what, where and when we plant.

Choosing hardy, locally appropriate species and giving new plants the best possible start will be particularly important this season.

And don't forget, Gympie Regional Council ratepayers can collect their **free rates trees** from the Gympie Landcare Nursery.



We're also pleased to be taking our two popular workshops, **Bush Regeneration and Backyard Biodiversity**, to **Kilkivan** on the 12th & 13th of September and **Imbil** on the 24th & 25th of October this year. Bush Regeneration will focus on techniques for restoring and managing native vegetation on larger properties, while Backyard Biodiversity will explore simple ways to create more diverse, wildlife-friendly gardens at home.

This is a great opportunity to take Landcare knowledge and skills out into our wider Gympie community and is proudly supported by Gympie Regional Council.

The workshops are **free for members** and just \$20 for non-members. See our website for more information and also to register your interest: <https://gympielandcare.org.au/events/>

Refer to the flyer on the last page of the newsletter.

August has also seen one chapter finish and another begin for our SQW Certificate I in **Conservation & Ecosystem Management traineeships**. We recently celebrated the graduation of one group of trainees after five months with us and have now welcomed our next group for another five-month program. You can read more about both groups further on in the newsletter.

It's great to see Landcare continuing to bring together practical environmental work, education and skills development – whether that's helping people care for their own patch, building capability in our community or creating pathways for the next generation of landcarers.

There's plenty more happening across Gympie Landcare, so I hope you enjoy catching up on all the news in this edition.

Thank you, as always, to our members, volunteers, staff, partners and supporters for the many different ways you contribute to Gympie Landcare and our local environment.

Here's to a productive – and hopefully not too dry – spring!

Regards,

Petra van Beek

President, Gympie Landcare





HOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP HELPS GYMPIE LANDCARE

One of the things that often surprises our local community is discovering that Gympie Landcare is an independently funded community organisation. To define it within a business model, Gympie Landcare is a not-for-profit social enterprise. We support ourselves through a combination of professional environmental services, applying for grants and selling our plants; and all of our income goes back into the organisation.

This model of 'doing business' is both a strength and a challenge.

Being self-funded means we can remain independent and respond to the needs of our local community. As a not-for-profit, the income generated through our nursery and environmental services is reinvested into the organisation, helping us employ local people, train the next generation of environmental workers, grow native local plants and undertake environmental restoration across our region.



But operating this way in the Gympie region can be challenging. There are fewer sources of environmental funding here than in many larger or more affluent parts of Queensland; much government environmental funding is locked up into a regional model of funding supply; and competition for grants and contracts is considerable. At the same time, the costs of employing people, growing plants, maintaining equipment and running an organisation continue to increase.

This is where our members are incredibly important.

Our membership base is more than just a list of names. It represents a community of people who believe that caring for our local environment is important and who want to see an organisation like Gympie Landcare continue to exist and thrive. Your membership provides us with something that can be difficult to quantify but is enormously valuable: a strong community foundation and a sense of purpose and belonging.

Having a strong membership also demonstrates that Gympie Landcare is genuinely connected to the community we work in. Our membership provides an important foundation from which we can continue to develop projects, promote our work, build stronger opportunities with partners and funders, as well as a collective voice when we promote and advocate for our region, our community and our environment. Just as importantly, our members remind us that the products and services we provide matter to local people.

Membership also helps us to stay connected to the people and issues that matter across our region. Whether you have been a member for decades, joined recently, volunteer your time, purchase plants from our nursery, attend one of our workshops or simply value knowing that there is a local organisation working to protect and restore our environment, you are part of the Gympie Landcare community.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of being a self-funded social enterprise, I want to thank our members for standing behind Gympie Landcare. Your support helps us remain a locally based, independent organisation working for the environment and the community we all care about.

Warm regards,

Alex van Beek

Co General Manager interim nursery manager, Gympie Landcare





INDUSTRY COLLABORATION – MADEIRA VINE

When it comes to the environment, there's no point in competing - we're all working towards the same thing!

In June, via the Mary River Integrated Project and supported by SEQ Water's Upper Mary Rivercare Program, the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) organised a meeting of businesses and other stakeholders in the industry to discuss an important issue in our catchment: the spread of Madeira vine and how best to tackle it, with the aim of sharing knowledge, experience, and best practices.

We quickly discovered that there isn't one perfect strategy for dealing with it. What works in one area simply doesn't cut it in another. And it's not that the first technique is ineffective; it's just that different situations call for different treatments.

The trouble with Madeira vine is that, via competition and evolution in its home country, it has become a fantastic survivalist. It grows from broken sections of stem as well as from 'nodes' (basically its own version of seeds, with inbuilt water reserves).



If you cut the vine, it may die off, but as it does, the nodes will drop to the ground and each and every one will sprout into a new vine. Alternatively, if the vine receives enough moisture, it will continue to survive despite having been severed from its base.

We can use herbicide to treat the vine without cutting it, which, with proper application, is also transported through the vine to the nodes to neutralise them. It's a good way to minimise the spread of new seedlings, but can take months and is fiddly and time consuming. A ground spray is also required for any existing seedlings.

The alternative is to cut all vines, collect what you can to prevent spread, wait for any remaining aerial nodes to drop, and conduct ground sprays once they sprout. This does result in many more seedlings from the dropped nodes, however, it immediately stops the production of new nodes.

Here in Gympie, we have fewer and smaller infestations, and can use the first method, whereas out in Kenilworth and surrounds, the infestations are a lot larger and more intense and require the more hands-on treatment.

Funding also (unfortunately) plays an important role in determining how to treat Madeira vine. If we only have access to limited funding for a particular site, there is a larger risk involved in using the second treatment method. Without the resources to return to site for follow-ups, we are essentially releasing a bunch of new seeds and letting them do their thing.

Both MRCCC and SEQ Water are invested in treating Madeira vine and are strong advocates for grassroots shared learning experiences. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to share with and learn from our peers.



Madeira is a Weed of National Significance. If you find it on your property, please look up the government fact sheet online and treat it as a matter of priority. Please do not dispose of it in your general waste, or transport it anywhere except the noxious weed disposal section of your local waste centre.

The Mary River Integrated Project is funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program and delivered by the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee.



Gympie Woodworks Museum Excursion:

Our Cert 1 in conservation and ecosystem management trainees recently explored the history of Queensland's timber industry, gaining a greater understanding of how forests have shaped the state's communities and economy for more than 150 years.

During the visit, trainees learned about and watched demonstrations of traditional logging methods, using steam, historic sawmilling operations and the important role timber played in building homes, railways, mines and regional towns such as Gympie.



The experience also highlighted how forestry practices have evolved over time. Trainees discovered how modern forest management focuses on sustainable harvesting, reforestation and protecting biodiversity while continuing to provide valuable timber resources.

By connecting the history of the timber industry with contemporary conservation practices, the trainees gained valuable insights into the importance of balancing environmental protection with responsible land and resource management.



Graduation:

We recently celebrated the graduation of our **Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management** trainees, with eight of the nine trainees who commenced successfully completing the program. Four finished a few weeks early after securing ongoing employment – including two who have now joined our own E&C teams – and we are hopeful the remaining four graduates will also find employment very soon.

Setting trainees up with the skills, experience and confidence to move into ongoing employment is the ultimate aim of the program, so it is wonderful to already be seeing such positive outcomes.

Congratulations to all our graduates and thank you to all who supported them on this journey!





NURSERY PRESENTATION

Each month Bunnings runs a gardening group, and our lovely Jera was privileged to be invited to give a presentation. Her topic was: **‘What can be planted in your own garden to create beautiful flower arrangements at home’**.

She showcased a variety of natives; including Grevilleas. She chose Grevilleas because they are such a versatile plant for the garden, flowering for much of the year and providing beautiful, long-lasting colour. They are available in a variety of sizes, which means there is a Grevillea suitable for every type of garden.

The lovely ladies all made beautiful arrangements which they got to take home. It seemed everyone had a nice time and really enjoyed seeing what they could create.



Jera and Rowena

Jera feels it's really important to build and maintain connections with other nurseries and gardening groups.

Opportunities like this allow us to share knowledge, showcase the plants we grow, and build relationships within the wider horticultural community. It's also a great way to encourage people to see the possibilities that native plants can offer in their own gardens.



SEEDING AND PROPAGATION

Now that the weather is starting to warm up, everything at the nursery is in full swing when it comes to seeding and propagation.

An important part of our propagation work is seed collecting, and with that comes the responsibility of collecting seed correctly, sustainably and safely.

When collecting seeds; it is important not to remove all the available seed from a plant. We aim to collect less than half, leaving plenty behind for the plant to naturally regenerate and reproduce where it is growing. This helps support the natural population and ensures that the plant continues to contribute to the ecosystem.

Leaving seeds behind is also important for maintaining genetic diversity. Just like people, plants have genetic differences, and maintaining a wide genetic base helps populations remain healthy and resilient. If we continually collect from only a small number of plants, we risk narrowing the genetic diversity of future generations.

Genetic diversity can also help protect plant populations from pests and diseases. Different plants may have different levels of resistance, meaning that a disease or environmental problem is less likely to affect an entire population. If genetic diversity is reduced, the whole population can become more vulnerable.

Responsible seed collecting is therefore about more than simply collecting enough seed to grow new plants. It's about protecting the plants we collect from, maintaining healthy genetics and ensuring that natural populations can continue to reproduce and thrive.





Gympie Landcare

KILKIVAN WORKSHOPS



FOR A HEALTHY LAND AND A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.



Learn ecological principles behind resilient ecosystems.

SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER



Bush Regeneration Workshop

For
acreage

Learn how to regenerate and manage larger parcels of land.

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER



Backyard Biodiversity Workshop

For
suburban
blocks

Create a wildlife-friendly backyard that strengthens local biodiversity.

BOTH WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:



Weed ID and
management



Improve soil and
water management



Planting techniques to
suit local conditions



Create wildlife
corridors



Hands on field
based learning



12th and 13th
September



10am - 3pm



Kilkivan Library and
Kilkivan Rail Trail



Morning tea and
lunch provided



FREE for GDLG Members
\$20 for non members



REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL

[https://gympielandcare.org.au/
events/](https://gympielandcare.org.au/events/)

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